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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

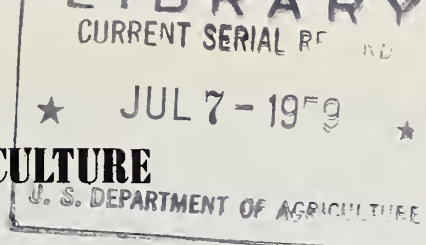


PHOTO SERIES NO. 41

COTTON MARKETING

JUNE 1959

Ol' King Cotton has played an important role in American agriculture since the early days of the nation. Cotton today ranks high among our farm crops in terms of cash value to farmers. It is also one of our biggest agricultural exports. In 1958, we produced 11.5 million bales of cotton, plus 4.8 million tons of cottonseed. Combined value of the cotton and cottonseed crops to farmers was \$2,117,000,000! These pictures, prepared for USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, illustrate steps in cotton marketing.

N-23260--Handling

After leaving the gin, cotton bales are moved to a warehouse. Here they may be further compressed, and are stored before shipment to markets all over the world.



N-30126--Classing

The U. S. Department of Agriculture offers farmers a free classing service under provisions of the Smith-Doxey Act. Cotton samples are classed for grade and staple length in comparison with official standards.

N-30149--Market News

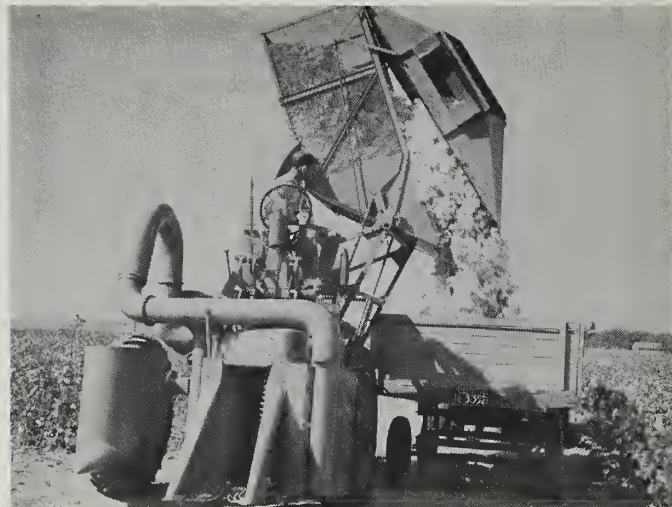
USDA also collects and publishes market news reports on cotton. Here a USDA market news reporter (center) gathers the latest price information from cotton merchants.



Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints (8 x 10) at \$1.00 each from the same address.



N-23296--Mechanical cotton picker in operation. This machine can pick as much cotton as 40 hand laborers.



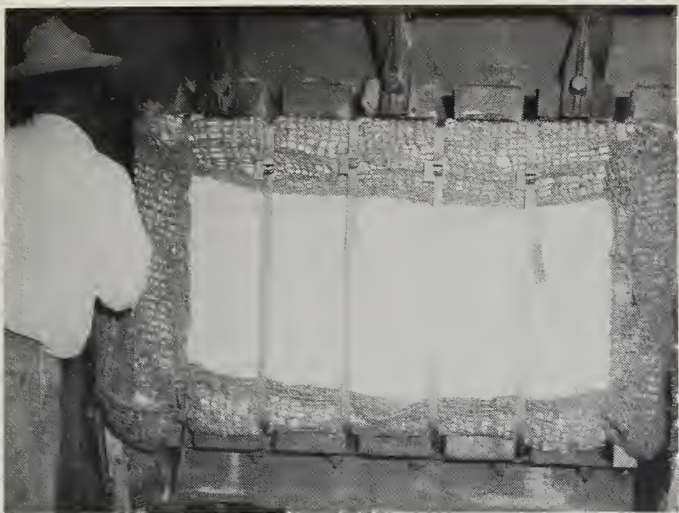
N-8672--Cotton is dumped from picker into trailer in which it will be hauled to the gin.



N-23310--Modern cotton gin separating lint from seed.



N-23300--Vacuum unloading of cotton at the gin.



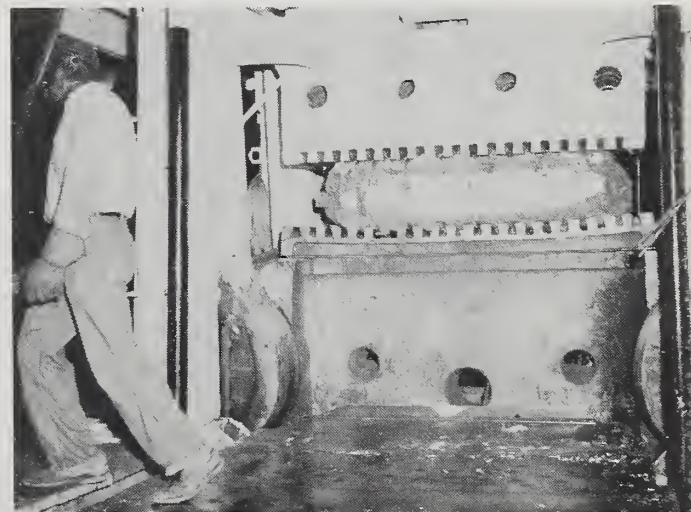
N-30137--After cleaning and condensing, the lint is pressed into bales weighing about 500 pounds each.



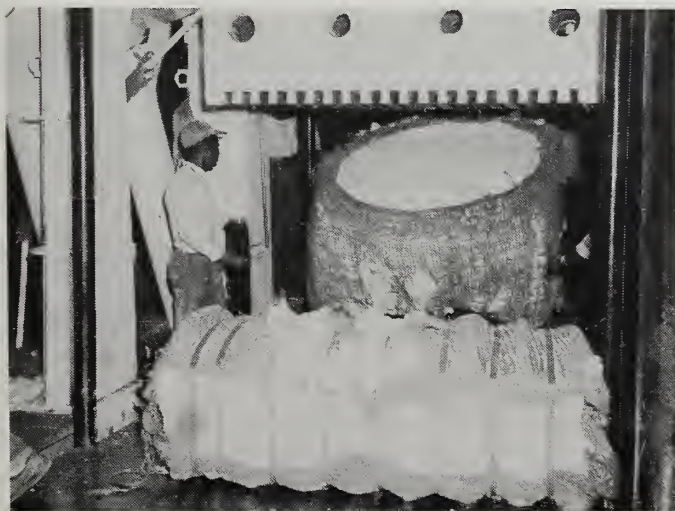
N-30140--Each bale is identified with a tag and weighed. Here, the farmer gets a receipt for his cotton from the ginner.



N-23267--Each bale received for storage by the warehouse is again weighed and tagged for identification.



N-23287--Bales destined for export to other countries are further compressed into a smaller size, because ocean shipping charges are computed on the basis of space as well as weight.



N-23288--A high-density bale is ejected as another bale is brought in for compression. The bands are removed from the gin bale before it comes to the high-density press.



N-30164--Gin or flat bale, standard density bale, and high density bale, left to right. Gin bales and standard density bales are shipped to domestic mills.



N-30136--The USDA offers farmers who are organized into cotton improvement groups a free classing service under the Smith-Doxey Act. This cotton gin operator is a bonded sampling agent for an organized group.



N-30133--After cutting open the bale, the sampling agent removes a 3-ounce sample of cotton from each side. The sample is mailed, along with the Smith-Doxey class card, to one of USDA's Cotton Classing offices.



N-30125--The classer compares each sample with official standards for grade and staple length. Here, he determines the staple length by pulling a typical portion of the fibers from both parts of the sample. The information is stamped on the class card, which is returned to the producer.



N-30158--A USDA market news reporter (far right) attends a meeting of the Memphis Price Quotations Committee. Trade committees in each of the principal spot cotton markets provide the USDA with daily market quotations for all qualities.



N-30157--The day's news at spot markets all over the Cotton Belt is flashed to one of four area offices for tabulation and analysis. The reporting of cotton markets is part of a nation-wide market news service for all commodities operating through more than 13,000 miles of leased teletype lines.



N-30165--Cotton market news reports are printed and widely distributed with the cooperation of daily newspapers, wire services, trade journals, and radio and television stations. Producers, shippers, distributors, and all other interested persons--wherever they may be--can find out within minutes the prevailing conditions at principal agricultural markets.